

Agency Overview

The Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs (ICHA or Commission) is a non-partisan state agency that was established in 1987 to improve the quality of lives of Hispanics in the state of Idaho. The Commission has the authority to secure public and private resources and hire staff to execute its mission that includes promoting economic, social, legal and political equality for Hispanics in Idaho.

It gathers and disseminates information, conducts hearings, conferences and special studies on problems and programs concerning Hispanic people. It also assists other public and private organizations that serve Hispanic people, including providing leadership development.

The Commission also serves in an advisory capacity to the Governor, the Legislature and state departments and agencies regarding the nature, magnitude, and priority of the problems of Idaho's Hispanic population.

The Commission consist of nine (9) board members, two (2) appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate from the members of the senate; two (2) to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives from the members of the house, and five (5) public members to be selected from the Hispanic community who reside in and represent the various geographical areas of the state which contain a significant Hispanic population.

The Commission structure consists of one office located in Boise, Idaho. The management positions include: Four full-time employees- one Executive Director – two Community Development Research Specialists – one Office Specialist.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

The Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs was established in 1987 by the first Regular Session of the 49th Idaho Legislature as an independent entity of state government.

Idaho Senate Bill No. 1171 - Chapter 72 Title 67 set out the duties and responsibilities of the Commission:

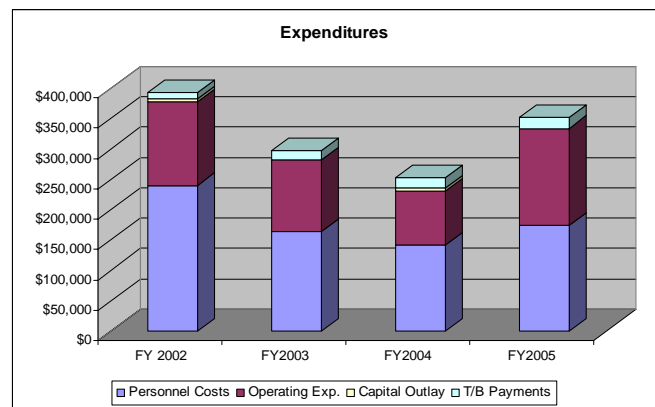
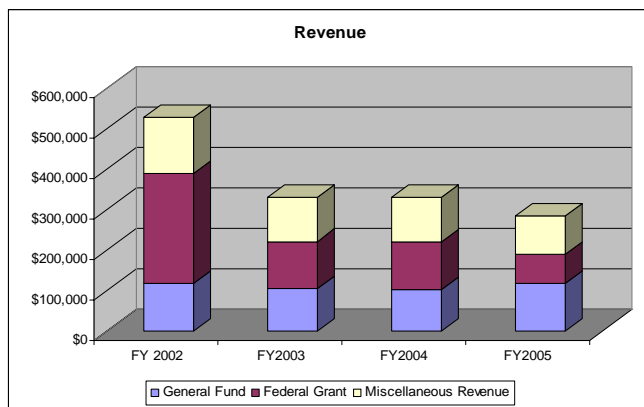
- To gather and disseminate information, conduct hearings, conferences, investigations, and special studies on problems and programs concerning Hispanic people.
- To stimulate public awareness of the problems of Hispanic people by conducting a program of public education.
- To develop, coordinate, and assist other public and private organizations that serve Hispanic people, including the conducting of training programs for community leadership.
- To advise the governor, legislature and state departments and agencies of the nature, magnitude, and priorities of the problems of Hispanic people.
- To advise the governor, legislature and state departments and agencies on, and assist in the development and implementation of, comprehensive and coordinated policies, programs and procedures focusing on the special problems and needs of Hispanic people, fields of education, and employment.
- To propose new programs concerning Hispanic people to public and private agencies and evaluate for such agencies existing programs or prospective legislation concerning Hispanic people.
- To establish advisory committees on special subjects or projects.
- To apply for and accept federal funds granted by congress or executive order for all or any of the purposes of this chapter as well as gifts and donations from individuals, corporations, private organizations or foundations, and to accept volunteer clerical or staff work.
- To cooperate or contract with individuals and state local and other agencies, both public and private, including agencies of the federal government and of other states.
- To meet and exercise its powers at any place within the state.
- To make by-laws for its own governance and procedure not inconsistent with the laws of this state.

The ultimate goals of the Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs is to work to integrate and coordinate the activities of Idaho's Hispanic leaders as partners with an aim to build greater effectiveness for the benefit of all the state's citizens. Our key issues address equality in economic opportunities, education, health and substance abuse. Partnering with Idaho's communities is essential to our work and to our mission. Having a realistic Strategic Plan in place has allowed ICHA to interact with, learn from, and be responsive to the needs of our state's communities.

The Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs plays a vital role in Idaho as an advocate for Hispanic issues.

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
General Fund	\$116,900	\$105,800	\$102,100	\$117,000
Federal Grant	\$272,800	\$115,800	\$118,300	\$73,700
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$139,300	\$110,300	\$111,100	\$94,000
Total	\$529,000	\$331,900	\$331,500	\$284,700
Expenditure	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Personnel Costs	\$240,200	\$163,400	\$142,000	\$173,600
Operating Expenditures	\$137,500	\$119,200	\$89,100	\$160,700
Capital Outlay	\$4,700	\$0	\$4,600	\$0
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$11,000	\$14,200	\$16,700	\$18,600
Total	\$393,400	\$296,800	\$252,400	\$352,900



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
(a) General referrals and request for information				
Request by telephone	500	350	475	5,400
Requests by mail	200	100	79	850
Monthly hits on website	0	0	0	11,500
(b) Education				
Early Literacy Training	2,500			
Cultural Trainings at school districts		5		
Counselors Trained			80	40
Hispanic Holiday Manuals Distributed				500
(c) Substance Abuse				
Scholarships awarded	9			
Drug/Alcohol Counselor Graduates		3	2	9
Presentations	12		19	25
Education Literature Distributed			2,300	3,250

Performance Highlights

The number of Hispanics in Idaho has increased over the course of the past two decades, the demand for demographic data and information regarding this population has increasingly become an essential resource for understanding and serving this community. In recognition of this need, during the summer of 2004 the Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs convened a statewide inter-agency task force to collaborate in the development of the Hispanic Profile Project, a demographic report of Idaho's Hispanic community. This collaborative effort resulted in the development of several goals, including the publishing of the Hispanic Profile Data Book for Idaho. This publication provides a one-stop source of demographic data and information describing the economic, education, and social status of Hispanics in Idaho, for use by a variety of data consumers, interested in accessing data regarding one of the fastest growing and largest ethnic groups in our state.

The first ever Hispanic Profile Data Book for Idaho has been particularly useful for state and local policy-makers, community members, program planners and evaluators, business and industry representatives, grant writers, educators, health care providers, researchers, and others interested in learning more about the unique needs and issues facing Hispanics in Idaho.

Our agency goal is to continue to strive towards developing the second phase of the report to be published by 2007.

FY 2004 the Idaho Commission on Hispanic re-established the agency web site www2.state.id.us/icha. Since the development the agency site is receiving a minimum of over 11,000 hits per month.

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For More Information Contact

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